

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 L-03 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 USSS-00 PA-03 PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RECOMBS:SAL

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R 291704Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR, US

SUBJ: INCIDENT AT SOVIET EMBASSY, SEPTEMBER 28

1. SOVIET EMBASSY TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 28 TO LODGE FORMAL COMPLAINT REGARDING GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS WHO ALLEGEDLY WERE BLOCKING ACCESS TO EMBASSY. FYI: SOVIET ANXIETY WAS UNDOUBTEDLY HEIGHTENED BECAUSE GROMYKO WAS HOSTING LUNCHEON FOR SECRETARY AT EMBASSY LATER THAT DAY. END FYI.

2. EARLIER SEPTEMBER 28 DEPARTMENT CONTACTED SECRET SERVICE AND METROPOLITAN POLICE TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE SECURITY MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN AT EMBASSY. WE WERE ASSURED THAT SECRET SERVICE, EXECUTIVE PROTECTION SERVICE, FBI, SPECIAL UNIT OF METROPOLITAN POLICE AND AN ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY WOULD BE AT EMBASSY TO MAINTAIN ORDER.

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3. AFTER RECEIVING SOVIET COMPLAINT, WE LEARNED THAT GROUP

OF ABOUT 25 INDIVIDUALS HAD CONGREGATED IN FRONT OF EMBASSY IN APPARENT VIOLATION OF DISTRICT'S 500-FOOT RULE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO SECRET SERVICE GROUP DID NOT BLOCK ACCESS TO EMBASSY. METROPOLITAN POLICE REPORTEDLY WERE ADVISED BY ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY ON SCENE THEY COULD NOT MAKE ARRESTS UNTIL GROUP COMMITTED "OVERT ACT" CLEARLY ESTABLISHING GROUP WAS "DEMONSTRATING" IN LEGAL SENSE. WE UNDERSTAND GROUP DISPERSED AT ABOUT 12:30, PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S

ARRIVAL.

4. WE EXPECT WRITTEN PROTEST FROM SOVIET EMBASSY AND HAVE REQUESTED DETAILED EXPLANATION OF ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY'S DECISION FROM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. KISSINGER

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